

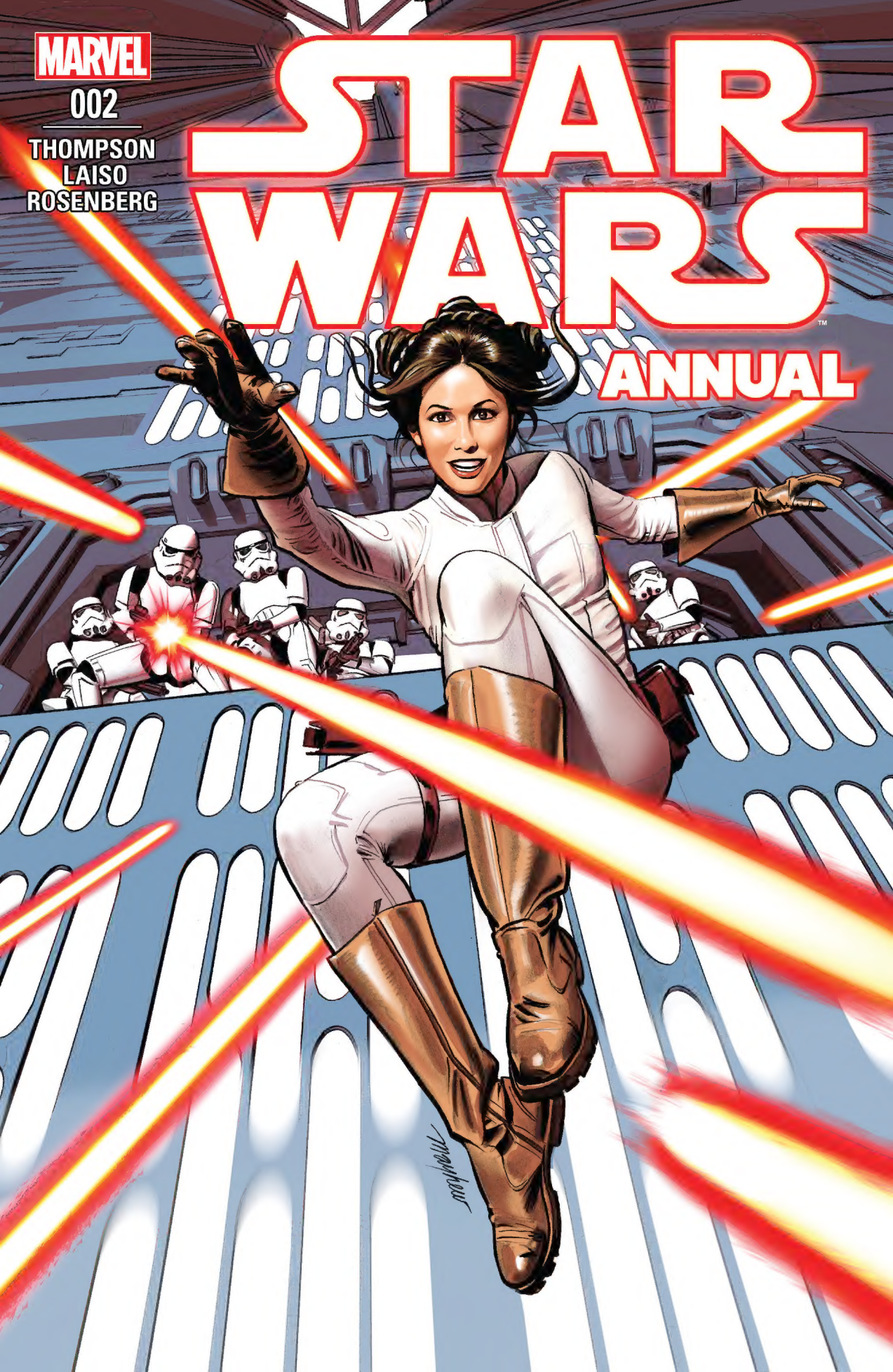
**MARVEL**

002

THOMPSON  
LAISO  
ROSENBERG

# STAR WARS

ANNUAL





# STAR WARS

## Annual II

***It is a pivotal moment in the galaxy. As the Empire continues to exert its oppressive force, the Rebel Alliance stands strong against their tyranny for the good of all.***

***While heroic Rebellion agents like Princess Leia of Alderaan strive to undermine Imperial strongholds, the Galactic Empire continues to dominate and has doubled its efforts to eliminate any who would stand against its rule.***

***Some choose to fight against waves of Imperial stormtroopers, while others choose the relative safety and security of obedience—and then there are those who refuse to take a side at all....***

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NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN THE EMPIRE  
AND THE REBELLION,  
YOU ASK ME.

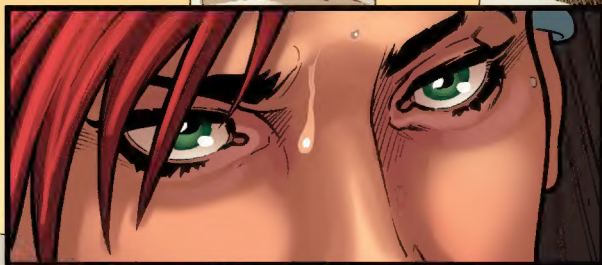
TWO SIDES OF THE SAME  
COIN. A COIN FULL OF  
PEOPLE THAT THINK  
THEY'RE HEROES TO THEIR  
RESPECTIVE CAUSE.

YOU KNOW WHAT  
HEROES ARE GOOD  
FOR? GETTING A LOT  
OF *OTHER* PEOPLE  
KILLED.

AND LEAVING A MESS FOR  
EVERYONE ELSE TO CLEAN  
UP. I'M AN "EVERYONE ELSE."  
MOST OF US ARE. NOBODY  
WRITES STORIES ABOUT US.







WE'RE THE JANITORS OF THE GALAXY. WHICH IS ANNOYING, BECAUSE I USED TO BE AN ENGINEER.

THE REBELLION DESTROYED THE PRIMARY INDUSTRY HERE ON SKORII-LEI. I WAS AN UNDERWATER ENGINEER, I LOVED MY JOB.



NOW I LIFT CRATES.



OH, GREAT. STORMTROOPERS. WHAT DO THEY WANT NOW? HAVEN'T THEY DONE ENOUGH?



OH, NO.



I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT.







...PROBABLY  
BECAUSE I'VE GOT  
THE LEADER OF THE  
REBELLION DYING  
IN MY ROOM.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL DIE IF  
PRINCESS LEIA DIES? HOW MANY  
PEOPLE WILL DIE IF SHE *LIVES*?  
IT'S A KIND OF MATH I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND, OR PERHAPS DON'T  
WANT TO UNDERSTAND.

SHE STILL  
ALIVE?

BREEP BOOP  
BOOP.







I DIDN'T ASK FOR COLOR COMMENTARY, BRUCE. I ASKED IF SHE WAS STILL ALIVE.

BREEEEP.

I SEE THAT SHE'S STILL SLEEPING. BUT SHE'S BURNING UP.

BROOP BREE.

YES, I REALIZE THAT SHE NEEDS MEDICINE.

BOOP BREEP BROO.

BRUCE, CAN YOU NOT? PLEASE. THERE ARE STORM-TROOPERS EVERYWHERE. THERE'S NOBODY WE CAN TRUST, NOT FOR SURE.



SHE'LL EITHER SURVIVE OR SHE WON'T. MIGHT BE BETTER FOR US IF SHE DOESN'T. EASIER TO GET RID OF PRINCESS LEIA'S BODY THAN IT IS TO GET RID OF HER ALIVE.

BREE BREEP BROO.

WE CAN'T SNEAK HER OUT. EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR HER AND SHE'S GOT A VERY FAMOUS FACE. BUT IF SHE'S DEAD WE COULD...

IT'S TOO GRUESOME TO SAY OUT LOUD. EVEN FOR THE LIKES OF HER.



BREE-EEE.

LET'S JUST SAY IT WOULD INVOLVE MAKING HER... SMALLER.

WEEE-OOOO.

NEVER MIND. I TOLD YOU IT WAS TOO GRUESOME TO SAY, WHY'D YOU MAKE ME SAY IT?!

LOCK THE DOOR BEHIND ME. NOBODY COMES IN OR OUT BUT ME.

BREEEE.



Skorii-Lei  
Fish Market.



BASH.

ACTUALLY IT'S PASH.

A NAME IS WHAT PEOPLE CALL YOU. PEOPLE CALL YOU BASH. SO BASH IS YOUR NAME.

FINE. I NEED SOMETHING TO BRING DOWN A FEVER, QUAWEI..

YOU SICK? BECAUSE YOU LOOK STRONG AS A GUNDARK.

YOUR JOB IS TO PROVIDE YOUR SERVICE, QUAWEI.

FAIR ENOUGH.

MIX WITH WATER, HEAT IT UP, DRINK IT ALL. TASTES FOUL, MIX IT IN WITH STRONG TEA, IT'LL GO DOWN EASIER THAT WAY.

YOU SEE THE BOUNTY HUNTERS?

BEEN ARRIVING ALL MORNING. WORSE THAN STORM-TROOPERS, YOU ASK ME.

EVEN IF I WAS SICK, I'D MOVE SOON. MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE.

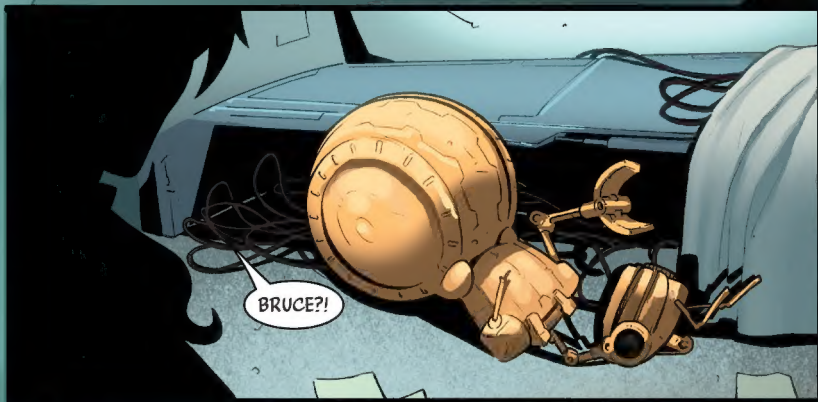
Two large, blue-skinned, horned alien bounty hunters in armor are shown in a close-up, looking serious.

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

COURSE NOT.

CRASH









=UNG= HUH.  
GUESS IT *IS*  
TRUE WHAT THEY  
SAY ABOUT HOW  
BIG YOU ARE AND  
HOW HARD  
YOU FALL.





YOU SAID  
50/50 SHE WAS  
GONNA DIE, NOT  
50/50 SHE WAS  
GONNA BASH MY  
HEAD IN.

BREEEEEEEP?



YOUR DROID IS HIDEOUS  
AT ODDS. I DON'T DIE.  
WELL, NOT *THAT*  
EASILY.



COURSE  
NOT. PEOPLE LIKE  
YOU NEVER DO. IT'S  
EVERYONE ELSE THAT  
GETS KILLED.



YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO DO THIS.  
I'M NOT GOING  
TO HURT YOU.

HA. =KOFF=  
I LAID HERE AND  
LISTENED TO YOU TALKING  
TO YOUR DROID  
ABOUT DISPOSING  
OF ME.



THAT WAS ONLY IF  
YOU DIED *ON YOUR*  
OWN. I WASN'T  
GOING TO KILL  
YOU.

YES, WELL,  
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME  
IF THE DISTINCTION  
THERE ISN'T TERRIBLY  
REASSURING.



WELL, YOU SHOULD  
KNOW THAT YOUR  
BLASTER DOESN'T  
WORK.

WHAT?



I'M AN ENGINEER,  
IT'S THE FIRST THING  
I CHECKED. YOU THINK  
I WOULD HAVE LET  
YOU KEEP IT IF IT  
WORKED?









LET ME HELP YOU.

WHAT WOULD POSSESS ME TO THINK THAT IS A GOOD IDEA?



FOR STARTERS, I ALREADY HELPED YOU. I COULD HAVE LEFT YOU TO DROWN WHERE I FOUND YOU. INSTEAD I BROUGHT YOU HERE, FIXED YOU UP, EVEN WENT OUT, AT MUCH PERSONAL DANGER TO MYSELF I MIGHT ADD, TO GET YOU SOME MEDICINE.

WHERE IS IT?

FRONT POCKET.



DON'T TRY ANYTHING.

WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.

IT'S FOR YOUR FEVER. SHE SAID TO HEAT IT UP WITH WATER, DRINK IT ALL.



AND WHAT ELSE?

WHAT WHAT ELSE?

BEFORE, YOU SAID "FOR STARTERS."

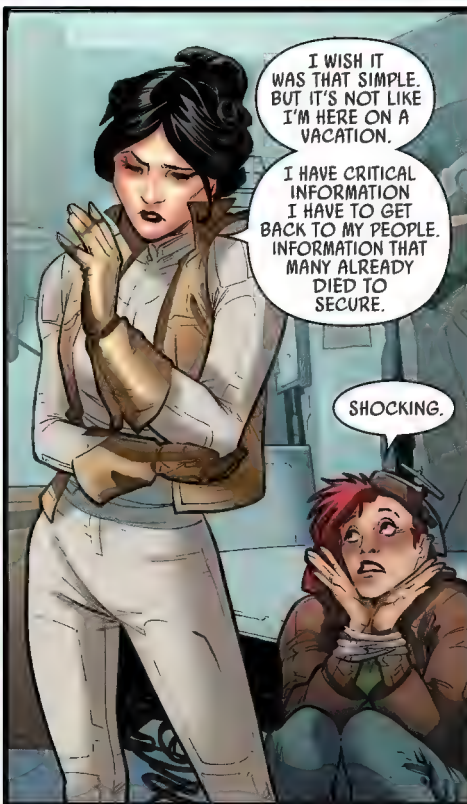
OH. WELL, IF THEY FIND YOU HERE THEY'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO KILL ME, SO Y'KNOW, IT'S IN MY BEST INTERESTS TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.



SO NOBLE.

NOT ALL OF US PUT ON AIRS.

BESIDES, IF YOU WERE SO NOBLE YOU'D JUST TURN YOURSELF IN SO THAT THE EMPIRE WOULD STOP TEARING APART SKORII-LEI TO FIND YOU.



I WISH IT WAS THAT SIMPLE. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M HERE ON A VACATION.

I HAVE CRITICAL INFORMATION I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY PEOPLE. INFORMATION THAT MANY ALREADY DIED TO SECURE.

SHOCKING.



YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE ME.

I REALLY DON'T.





AT  
LEAST YOUR  
DROID HAS  
MANNERS.

HIS  
NAME IS  
BRUCE.



ODD NAME  
FOR A DROID. LOOKS  
LIKE YOU RETROFITTED  
HIM...MAYBE FOR  
UNDERWATER USE?

YES. I  
USED TO MINE  
UNDERWATER.

USED  
TO?

UNTIL THE  
REBELLION AND  
THE EMPIRE WRECKED  
EVERYTHING HERE.  
TOTALLY DESTROYED  
THE WHOLE INDUSTRY.



=GAH=

OH YEAH,  
SHE MAAAAAY  
HAVE SAID TO  
ADD SOME TEA  
TO BLUNT THE  
TASTE.

I  
FORGOT.



SURE  
YOU  
DID.



DID YOU  
STITCH ME  
UP?

YES.

WHY? IF  
YOU DISLIKE  
ME SO MUCH,  
WHY HELP  
ME?

I'M NOT A  
MONSTER.



BUT WHY,  
REALLY?

...I DON'T  
KNOW.

SO, YOU  
HAVE SOME  
BRILLIANT IDEA  
FOR GETTING  
ME OUT OF  
HERE?



I DO. BUT IT  
DOESN'T GET YOU  
OFF THE PLANET...  
JUST OUT OF THE  
AREA.

OFF PLANET  
ISN'T THE PROBLEM.  
I HAVE A RIDE. BUT  
ONLY IF I GET TO THE  
OTHER SIDE OF THE  
BAY IN THE NEXT  
SIX HOURS.

I CAN  
DO THAT.  
IT'LL BE TIGHT,  
BUT I CAN  
DO IT.



ALL  
RIGHT. LET'S  
HEAR IT.

YOU CAN  
SWIM, RIGHT,  
PRINCESS?



Later...

IT'S STILL TOO BIG.

WELL, THAT'S AS CLOSE AS WE'RE GETTING. AND I THINK... WITH THE DIVING HELMET ON YOU WON'T BE RECOGNIZED.

IF NOBODY LOOKS CLOSELY.

**BANG  
BANG  
BANG**

OPEN UP BY ORDER OF THE EMPIRE!

I BET THEY'RE GOING TO LOOK CLOSELY.

GET IN THE CUPBOARD.

I'M NOT GETTING IN A CUPBOARD!

DO IT!

I CAN HELP!

OPEN UP OR WE'LL BREAK IT DOWN!

PEFT. YOU CAN BARELY STAND!

I'LL NEVER FIT IN HERE!

YOU WILL! YOU'RE INSANELY SMALL!

UM...COMING! JUST... PUTTING ON SOME CLOTHES...AND STUFF.

WE'RE COMING IN.

HOLD ON!

**FWWWWWISHHHH**

WHOA. WHAT'S GOING ON?

STAND ASIDE.





MAYBE YOU  
COULD TELL ME  
WHAT YOU'RE--

ENEMY OF THE  
EMPIRE, PRINCESS LEIA  
ORGANA. WE'RE DOING A  
ROOM-TO-ROOM SEARCH. AFTER  
THAT WE'LL BURN THIS WHOLE DUMP  
TO THE GROUND. SO IF YOU'VE  
SEEN HER, SAVE YOURSELF AND  
YOUR NEIGHBORS AND  
GIVE HER UP NOW.

HERE IT IS. THIS  
IS THE MOMENT  
WHERE I CAN  
CHANGE MY MIND.

I DON'T.  
I'M NOT  
SURE WHY.

I'VE NO  
LOVE FOR THE  
REBELLION OR ANY  
SPOILED PRINCESS  
THEY PROP UP AS  
THEIR FACE.

YOU HEAR  
THAT? I THINK  
I LIKE THIS  
ONE!

I'D NO  
SOONER  
PROTECT HER  
THAN...

...YOU.

**SMACK**

**CRASH**

OH, NO.

OOOF.

**BAM**

**SLAM**

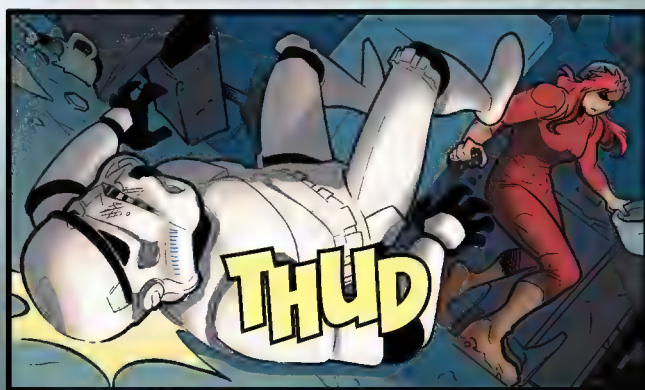
GAH!

**RIP**

**BAM**

**SQUICK**





LOOKS  
LIKE YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
NEED A NEW  
BRICK.



≡HUFF≡  
SLIGHTLY  
NEW PLAN.

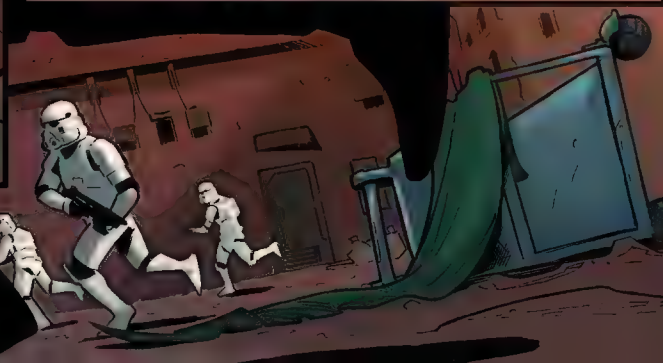
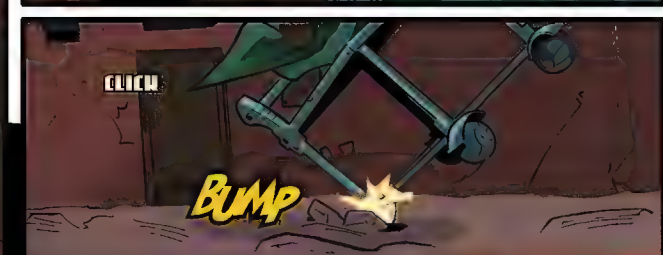




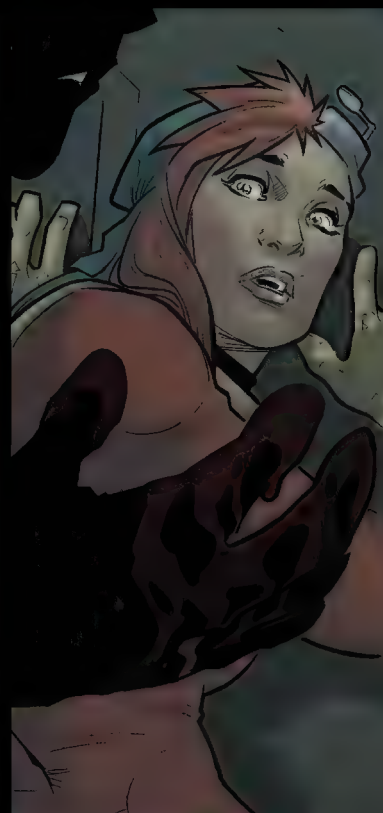




PAASSSHHH!











=TCH= YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED UNCONSCIOUS FOR JUST A COUPLE MORE MINUTES.

=GROAN= OH, PLEASE STOP DOING THAT.

SORRY. CAN'T. IT'S ALMOST SEWED UP. YOU WANT SOMETHING TO BITE ON?

...NO.



THIS LOOKS BAD, PRINCESS. YOU NEED **REAL** MEDICAL ATTENTION. NOT THIS QUICK FIX NONSENSE.

I KNOW.



TAKE THIS.

WHAT?



IF I DON'T MAKE IT TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, TAKE THIS TO MY PEOPLE...SKYWALKER, SOLO, A BIG WALKING CARPET NAMED CHEWIE...THEY'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

NO, I DON'T...

THIS IS BAD, PASH. AND...AND IT'S A LONG SWIM...



...WHY DON'T YOU LIKE ME?

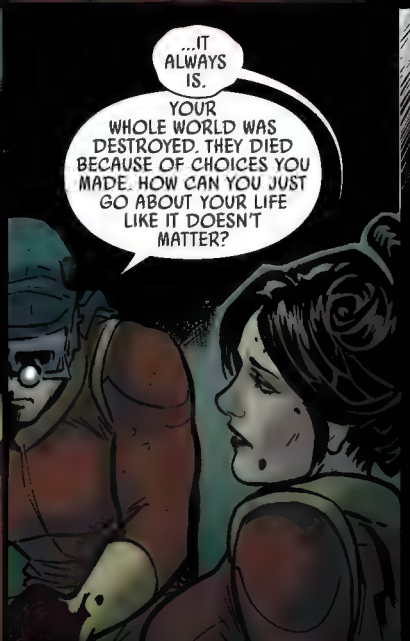


THAT'S... A...

I MIGHT DIE. YOU CAN AT LEAST BE HONEST.



ALDERAAN.



...IT ALWAYS IS.

YOUR WHOLE WORLD WAS DESTROYED. THEY DIED BECAUSE OF CHOICES YOU MADE. HOW CAN YOU JUST GO ABOUT YOUR LIFE LIKE IT DOESN'T MATTER?



ALL I CAN DO IS MAKE THEIR SACRIFICE MEAN SOMETHING. GIVE EVERYTHING I HAVE TO THIS CAUSE THE SAME WAY THEY DID.

TO STOP WOULD BE TO BE UNWORTHY OF THEM...UNWORTHY OF WHAT THEY GAVE...OF WHAT I TOOK FROM THEM.





TRUTH BE TOLD, IT'S NOT THEIR *DEATHS*... THAT KEEPS ME UP MOST NIGHTS.

IT'S THE QUESTION.

THE QUESTION OF...IF I WOULD DO ANYTHING DIFFERENTLY.



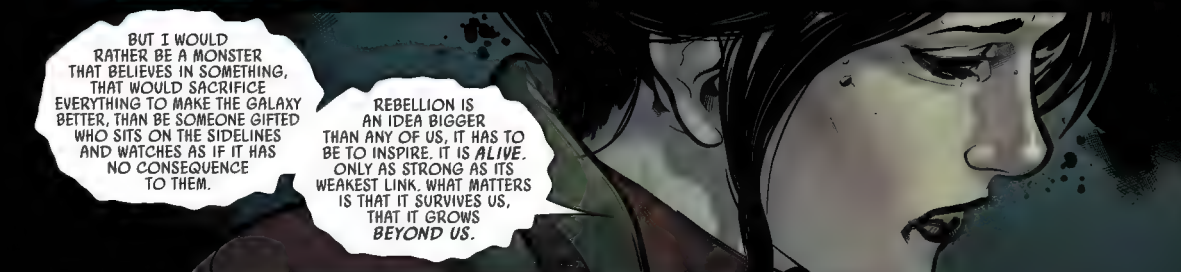
IMAGINE TRYING TO LOOK YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR EVERY DAY ONCE YOU REALIZE THAT THE ANSWER IS NO.

NO, YOU *WOULD* DO IT ALL AGAIN, YOU WOULD STILL SACRIFICE ALL OF THOSE INNOCENT LIVES IF IT MEANS STOPPING THE EMPIRE.



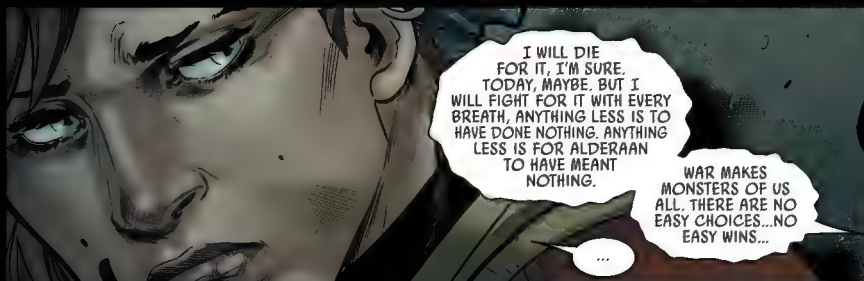
PRINCESS. REBEL. POLITICIAN. DAUGHTER. FRIEND. FIGHTER. SURVIVOR. BETRAYER. MONSTER.

THESE ARE WORDS OTHERS USE TO DESCRIBE ME, AND WORDS I ALSO USE FOR MYSELF. SOME FIT MORE THAN OTHERS.



BUT I WOULD RATHER BE A MONSTER THAT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING, THAT WOULD SACRIFICE EVERYTHING TO MAKE THE GALAXY BETTER, THAN BE SOMEONE GIFTED WHO SITS ON THE SIDELINES AND WATCHES AS IF IT HAS NO CONSEQUENCE TO THEM.

REBELLION IS AN IDEA BIGGER THAN ANY OF US. IT HAS TO BE TO INSPIRE. IT IS *ALIVE*. ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK. WHAT MATTERS IS THAT IT SURVIVES US, THAT IT GROWS *BEYOND* US.



I WILL DIE FOR IT, I'M SURE. TODAY, MAYBE. BUT I WILL FIGHT FOR IT WITH EVERY BREATH, ANYTHING LESS IS TO HAVE DONE NOTHING. ANYTHING LESS IS FOR ALDERAAN TO HAVE MEANT NOTHING.

WAR MAKES MONSTERS OF US ALL. THERE ARE NO EASY CHOICES...NO EASY WINS...



PRINCESS? PRINCESS, IT'S TIME TO GO. CAN YOU MOVE?

...YES.





IT'S JUST UNDER A THOUSAND METERS. THAT SHOULD PUT US RIGHT ON TOP OF WHERE YOUR FRIENDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE.

CAN YOU MAKE IT?

NO... PROBLEM.



BREE-BROOPBREEP.

SHHH. I KNOW.

I HEARD THAT.

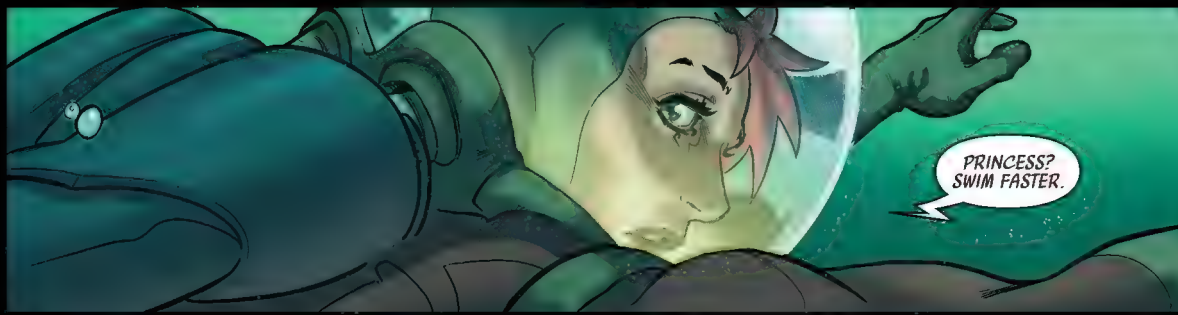


WHAT DID I TELL YOU?!

BEEP REEP.

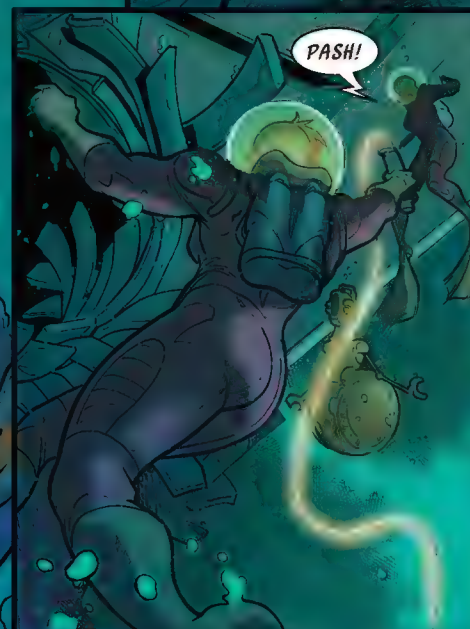
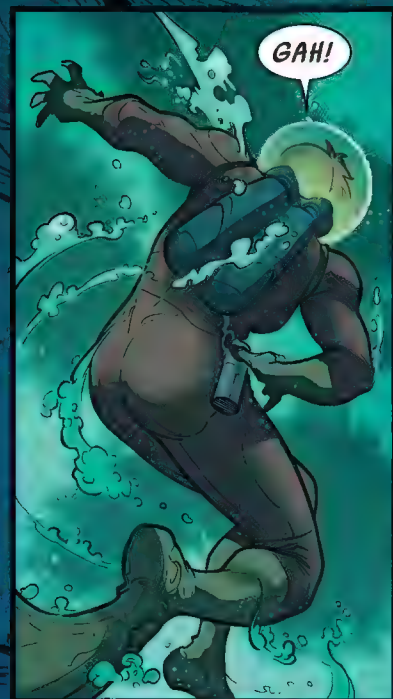
KEEP IT UP, BUDDY, SHE ALREADY DISASSEMBLED YOU ONCE TODAY.

BR0000000.



PRINCESS? SWIM FASTER.













LEIA!

WHAT  
HAPPENED?!

SHE NEEDS  
MEDICAL  
ATTENTION...SHE  
LOST A LOT OF  
BLOOD.

AND WE'VE  
STILL GOT  
COMPANY...

**HRRRAAAA!**



GO! GET  
HER ON THE  
FALCON! WE'LL  
TAKE CARE  
OF THIS.

**PEW  
PEW  
PEW  
PEW  
PEW**



I CAN SEE THEM  
FOR A MOMENT  
THE WAY SHE MUST.

**PEW  
PEW**



**PEW  
PEW**

**RAARGHHH!**

NO LONGER JUST PEOPLE. BUT  
INSTEAD LIVING, BREATHING IDEAS  
ALL CONNECTED AND UNENDING.  
STRONGER BECAUSE THEY'RE ONE.

THEY'RE SORT OF...  
BEAUTIFUL.





=UNNNGGH=

SORRY.



LEIA...I  
HAVE TO GET  
US OUT OF  
HERE.

GO.  
GO.

I'LL BE  
BACK.



LUKE,  
GET YOUR  
BUTT ON  
BOARD!

=UNG=



WHY DID YOU DO  
IT, PRINCESS? YOU  
SAVED ME DOWN  
THERE...

I SAVED  
THE DATA...  
YOU WERE JUST  
A BONUS.



YOU FEEL  
THAT? WE'RE  
IN THE  
AIR.



REST,  
PRINCESS.  
YOU'RE SAFE  
NOW.

NO SUCH  
THIN--



SHE GAVE THIS  
TO YOU? SHE  
MUST TRUST YOU  
A GREAT  
DEAL.

I THINK...  
JUST AFRAID  
SHE WOULDN'T  
MAKE IT TO  
YOU.

PERHAPS  
BOTH.

THANK YOU FOR  
GETTING HER  
HERE. WE OWE  
YOU...

PASH  
DAVANE.

LUKE  
SKYWALKER.





YOU LOOK BETTER.

YES. THANK YOU.

YOU LOOK...IS THAT HAN'S SHIRT?

YEAH, HAD TO RIP THE SLEEVES OFF THOUGH.

HEH. OH HE'S GONNA LOVE THAT.

I'M SORRY YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN.

I KNEW WHAT IT MEANT WHEN I FOUND YOU AND BROUGHT YOU INTO MY HOME.

I'M STILL SORRY...

BUT?



BUT I HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US. WE ALWAYS NEED SMART, CAPABLE PEOPLE, PASH.

AND WE'LL NEVER TURN DOWN SOMEONE THAT CAN BASH PEOPLE OVER THE HEAD WITH A BRICK AS WELL AS YOU CAN, EITHER.

YOU SHOULD TRY TO NOT MAKE JOKES. YOU'RE AWFUL AT IT.



WHY WOULD YOU WANT "SOMEONE GIFTED WHO SITS ON THE SIDELINES AND WATCHES AS IF IT HAS NO CONSEQUENCE TO THEM"?

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT. I'M SORRY I WAS SO HARD ON YOU, I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE.



SURE YOU DID. THAT'S WHAT YOU DO, RIGHT?

...



I BET IF I ASK THAT GUY, HE'LL AGREE.

...DON'T DO THAT.



THEN ADMIT IT.

YES. THAT'S WHAT I DO.

WELL, IT WORKED THIS TIME.

IT WILL PROBABLY GET YOU KILLED.



YES, WELL, WE ALL HAVE TO DIE. WHY NOT DO IT PAINFULLY BUT WITH MEANING?

I THINK MAYBE WE CAN BE FRIENDS NOW.

~~ETCH~~ I DON'T NEED ANY PRINCESSY FRIENDS.

WHAT ABOUT ONES THAT SAVE YOUR LIFE?

...MAAAYBE.

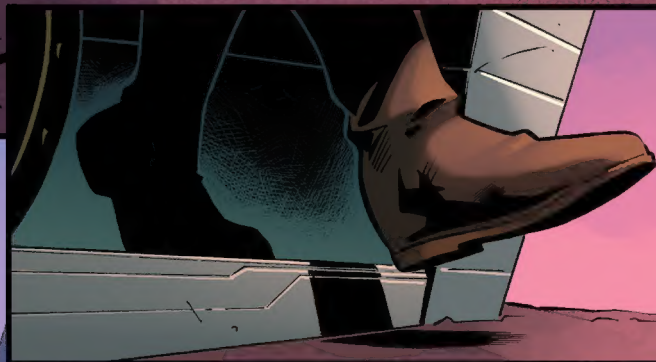
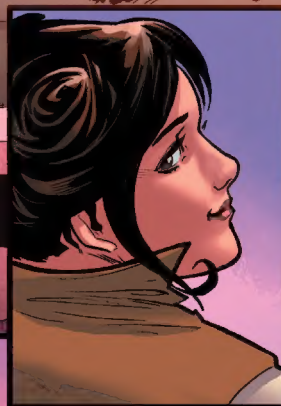


LEIA'S WRONG, THOUGH. I MEAN, SHE DOES IT FOR ALL THE REASONS SHE SAID, I BELIEVE THAT. NOBODY LIES WHEN THEY THINK IT MIGHT BE THEIR LAST WORDS.

BUT THERE'S MORE HERE. SEEING THESE PEOPLE, THIS FAMILY. THEY'RE BOUND BY SOMETHING POWERFUL, LOOKING AT THEM, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE **NOT** TO BELIEVE.

SHE TALKED OF THE REBELLION BEING A LIVING THING, BUT WHAT SHE NEGLECTED TO MENTION WAS **HOPE**. HOPE IS A LIVING THING, TOO... SEEING IT NOW I SUDDENLY REALIZE I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE, NOT WITH THIS CLARITY, AT LEAST.

BUT I SEE IT NOW. I DON'T THINK I COULD FORGET WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...WHAT IT **FEELS** LIKE.



SO YEAH.  
I'M IN.

BRING ON THE PAINFUL DEATH. SO LONG AS IT COMES HAND IN HAND WITH **HOPE...I'M IN.**



**The End.**



# STAR WARS™ **NEXT ISSUE!**





• Tour •  
**THE SEVEN SEAS**

With

**BLACK MANTA  
EMPIRE**



Call 555-FISH